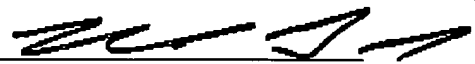


PATENT

OPTP101USB

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 703-872-9306 on the date shown below to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Himanshu S. Amin

MAR 08 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicants(s): John Merrow Davies, *et al.*

Examiner: Patrick J. D. Santos

Serial No: 09/998,613

Art Unit: 2161

Filing Date: November 30, 2001

Title: VIRTUAL PRIVATE SUPPLY CHAIN

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 14, 2005

Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.